

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A portable landscape/construction material blowing unit comprising:
 - a base;
 - a material hopper supported by the base, the hopper including an opening sized and positioned to receive a supply of material ~~directly and manually from an operator~~;
 - an augur carried within the material hopper, the augur at least substantially vertically aligned and configured to transport at least a portion of the supply of material away from the opening;
 - a hose extending from the hopper, the hose including a distal end through which material exits the hose;
 - a blower supported by the base and connected fluidly to the hopper, the blower operable to force air through the hopper and material through the hose;
 - and
 - wherein the base, hose, hopper and blower are configured and arranged to be transported on another device : ~~(i) by a car trailer, truck trailer, garden tractor trailer; (ii) on stakes of a stake bed truck; (iii) by a three point hitch; (iv) by a forklift; (v) by a skid steer loader and any combination thereof.~~
2. (original) The portable unit of Claim 1, which includes a power supply device supported by the base, the power supply device operable to run the blower.
3. (original) The portable unit of Claim 2, wherein the power supply device additionally powers a motor that operates a feeder.

4. (original) The portable unit of Claim 3, wherein the power supply device is an engine that is mechanically coupled to the blower and hydraulically coupled to the feeder motor.
5. (original) The portable unit of Claim 1, which includes a feeder that receives material from the hopper and air from the blower.
6. (original) The portable unit of Claim 5, wherein the feeder is integral to the hopper.
7. (original) The portable unit of Claim 5, wherein the feeder is located at a bottom portion of the hopper and the hose extends from the hopper at a position below the feeder.
8. (original) The portable unit of Claim 5, wherein the hose extends from a side portion of the hopper.
9. (original) The portable unit of Claim 1, which includes a device configured to receive a pressurized supply of fluid, the fluid used to power the blower.
10. (original) The portable unit of Claim 9, wherein the fluid is used to power a motor connected mechanically to the blower.
11. (original) The portable unit of Claim 9, wherein the fluid is used additionally to power a motor that operates a feeder.
12. (original) The portable feeder of Claim 1, wherein the hopper has a material capacity of about three to ten cubic feet.

13. (original) The portable feeder of Claim 1, wherein the hopper, blower and hose are operable to blow a material selected from the group consisting of: bark, mulch, fertilizer, compost, wood chips, soil, peat moss, gypsum, dry grass clippings, leaves, seed, herbicides, pesticides or other chemicals, gravel/stone, processed straw and hay, sawdust and any combination thereof.
14. (currently amended) The portable feeder of Claim 1, ~~which includes~~ an wherein the augur is a spiral auger positioned inside the hopper, the spiral auger operating to push material towards a position on the hopper that communicates fluidly with the hose.
15. (original) The portable feeder of Claim 1, wherein the base defines at least two apertures sized and positioned to receive forks of a fork lift or skid steer loader.
16. (original) The portable feeder of Claim 1, which is reversible to alleviate a jam caused by the material.
17. (withdrawn) A portable landscape/construction material blowing unit comprising:
 - a base;
 - a material hopper supported by the base, the hopper having a material capacity of about three to ten cubic feet;
 - a hose extending from the hopper, the hose including a distal end through which material exists the hose;
 - a blower supported by the base and connected fluidly to the hopper, the blower operable to force air through the hopper and material through the hose;
 - and
 - a power supply device supported by the base, the power supply device operable to run the blower.

18. (withdrawn) The portable unit of Claim 17, wherein the base, hopper, hose, blower and power supply device are configured and arranged to be transported: (i) by a car trailer, truck trailer, garden tractor trailer; (ii) on stakes of a stake bed truck; (iii) by a three point hitch; (iv) by a forklift and any combination thereof.
19. (withdrawn) The portable unit of Claim 17, which includes a feeder that receives material from the hopper and air from the blower.
20. (withdrawn) The portable unit of Claim 19, wherein the feeder is integral to the hopper.
21. (withdrawn) The portable feeder of Claim 17, wherein the hopper, blower and hose are operable to blow a material selected from the group consisting of: bark, mulch, fertilizer, compost, wood chips, soil, peat moss, gypsum, dry grass clippings, leaves, seed, herbicides, pesticides or other chemicals, gravel/stone, processed straw and hay, sawdust and any combination thereof.
22. (withdrawn) A portable landscape/construction material blowing unit comprising:
 - a base;
 - a material hopper supported by the base, the hopper having a material capacity of about three to ten cubic feet;
 - a hose extending from the hopper, the hose including a distal end with a device for allowing and disallowing flow of material from the hose;
 - a blower supported by the base and connected fluidly to the hopper, the blower operable to force air through the hopper and material through the hose;
 - and
 - a device configured to receive a pressurized supply of fluid, the fluid used to power the blower.

23. (withdrawn) The portable unit of Claim 22, wherein the base, hopper, hose, blower and device are configured and arranged to be transported: (i) by a car trailer, truck trailer, garden tractor trailer; (ii) on stakes of a stake bed truck; (iii) by a three point hitch; (iv) by a forklift; (v) by a skid steer loader and any combination thereof.
24. (withdrawn) The portable unit of Claim 22, which includes a feeder that receives material from the hopper and air from the blower.
25. (withdrawn) The portable unit of Claim 24, wherein the feeder is integral to the hopper.
26. (withdrawn) The portable blower of Claim 22, wherein the pressurized fluid receiving device includes a pneumatic valve.
27. (withdrawn) The portable feeder of Claim 22, wherein the hopper, blower and hose are operable to blow a material selected from the group consisting of: bark, mulch, fertilizer, compost, wood chips, soil, peat moss, gypsum, dry grass clippings, leaves, seed, herbicides, pesticides or other chemicals, gravel/stone, processed straw and hay, sawdust and any combination thereof.
28. (withdrawn) A landscaping/building material feed hopper comprising:
 - a shell defining a first opening through which dispensable material is supplied, a second opening through which air is blown and a third opening through which the material is conveyed to a hose;
 - a feeder positioned at an end of the shell opposite and end defining the first opening, the feeder including paddles that move the material towards the third opening;
 - a baffle positioned inside the shell and operating to separate air entering through the second opening and material loaded through the first opening; and
 - at least one seal between the paddles and an inner surface of the shell.

29. (withdrawn) The hopper of Claim 28, which includes additionally at least one seal between the paddles and the baffle.
30. (withdrawn) The hopper of Claim 28, which includes at least one seal attached to each paddle that seals substantially the paddles to the inner surface of the shell and substantially the paddles to the baffle when the baffles contact the baffle.
31. (withdrawn) The hopper of Claim 28, which includes a motor that drives the feeder.
32. (withdrawn) The hopper of Claim 31, which includes an auger positioned within the interior of the shell, the auger driven by the feeder motor.
33. (withdrawn) The hopper of Claim 28, wherein the baffle is welded at its sides to the interior surface of the shell so as to form an air chamber within the shell.
34. (withdrawn) The hopper of Claim 33, wherein the air chamber is positioned adjacent to the feeder so that air in the chamber is forced to contact material being moved by the feeder.
35. (withdrawn) The hopper of Claim 33, wherein the air chamber is positioned adjacent to the feeder at a position substantially in line with the third opening located on the opposite side of the feeder from the chamber.
36. (withdrawn) The hopper of Claim 33, wherein the paddles rotate in a substantially horizontal plane about a substantially vertical axis of rotation.

37. (currently amended) A pneumatic material blowing method comprising the steps of:

providing a unit including a material feed hopper configured to carry at least a substantially vertically aligned augur, a pneumatic blower and a feeder having collectively an empty weight suitable so that the unit is transportable ~~via an another transportation device selected from the group consisting of: a car trailer, a truck trailer, a garden tractor trailer, stakes of a stake bed truck, a three point hitch, a forklift, a skid ster loader and any combination thereof;~~ and
urging ~~a person to move~~ positioning the unit at a location via the device ~~to a location, and load~~ loading the hopper with material and pneumatically ~~sprayspraying~~ the material to a destination.

38. (original) The method of Claim 37, which includes coupling the blower operably to the hopper.
39. (original) The method of Claim 37, which includes coupling the feeder integrally to the hopper.
40. (original) The method of Claim 37, which includes providing an on-board engine to run the blower and feeder.
41. (currently amended) The method of Claim 37, which includes ~~urging the person to connect~~ connecting the unit to an external power supply device to run the blower and feeder.

42. (currently amended) A method of dispensing landscaping/building materials to a destination comprising the steps of:

moving a unit having a material feed hopper configured to carry a substantially vertically aligned spiral augur, a pneumatic blower and a feeder via a separate transportation device coupled removably to the unit to a place proximate to the destination;

loading the materials into the hopper;

manually conveying a hose from the unit to the destination; and

powering the unit and manipulating the hose so that the material is dispensed to the destination.

43. (canceled)

44. (canceled)

45. (canceled)